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Signed, Melvin K. Silverman
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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

File No. 1245.02

#4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Hall EXAMINER: Moy
SERIAL NO.: 09/851,995 ART UNIT: 3727
FILED: 05/10/01

DECLARATION OF INVENTOR UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.132

Hon. Director of Patents and Trademark
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sirs

I, Charles B. Hall, do hereby declare and aver as follows:

1. I am the inventor in the above-identified Application for Patent.
2. The development of this invention occurred during a period during the years 1998 and 2000.
3. Therein, I experimented with various materials, geometries of the entire structure, and sizes and geometries for the apertures within the sidewalls thereof.
4. Therein, I eventually realized that there existed three essential variables which must be balanced to develop a laundry basket and hamper of the desired type inclusive of its selectable internal compartments.
5. These variables were (a) provision of suitable aeration to the clothing within the basket during the interval between the deposit of clothing

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therein and their removal therefrom, (b) the structural integrity of the entire laundry basket, and (c) the aesthetics thereof.

6. For example, it soon became clear that if the apertures within the sidewalls of the structure were too large, there would occur a compromise in the structural integrity of the entire basket, particularly when all of the partitions were not used, or if the basket was particularly full with laundry.

7. I further discovered that if the apertures were too small, suitable aeration of the clothing therewithin could not be obtained and, in addition, the aesthetics thereof would be compromised, regardless of the shape that the apertures themselves might have.

8. While the drawings of this application show apertures which are substantially hexagonal, I also experimented with the use of circular apertures as is shown in the attached photocopy of a photograph of one of my prototypes. This photograph shows apertures that are larger in diameter at the higher levels of the basket and smaller at the lower levels. I thereby determined that the salient parameter in the balance of the above factors was that of the ratio of the aggregate area of all apertures within each sidewall to the area of each entire sidewall, as opposed to the area of any particular aperture itself.

9. As a result of the above period of development of my invention, I determined that a ratio, of void space of the apertures to the entire area of a corresponding lateral sidewall, which exceeded two-thirds, would result in structural instability, particularly when the basket was fully loaded and

partitions were not employed. Conversely, I determined that any reduction of this ratio below one-third compromised both the capacity of the basket to provide necessary aeration to the laundry and also compromised the design opportunities to produce an aesthetically pleasing product. I thereby determined that the best compromise to optimize these factors was that of a ratio in a range of about one-third to about two-thirds.

10. I also determined that when all partitions are used, laundry within the basket may be packed more densely than is typically the case in the absence of such partitions. As such, the aeration of such densely packed laundry became an essential consideration.

11 I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


CHARLES B. HALL

5-25-02
DATE

Attachment:

Photocopy of photograph of prototype.

